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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/776,205	02/12/2004	Hisanori Miura	11-223	4172

23400 7590 08/23/2006

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EXAMINER	
TO, TOAN C	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3616	

DATE MAILED: 08/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/776,205	MIURA, HISANORI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Toan C. To	3616	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *12 February 2004*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-8* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-8* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *10 February 2005* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *7-27-2004*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Foo et al (U.S. 6,529,810).

With respect to claims 1-5, Foo et al discloses an apparatus for driving an occupant-protecting airbag device mounted on a vehicle, the airbag device including an airbag and a squib to which power is supplied and the squib being deployed by igniting the squib (see column 4, line 30), the apparatus comprising: a plurality of sensors (sensors 32-48) each sensing a physical quantity acting on the vehicle to output an analog signal indicative of the physical quantity; a plurality of A/D (analog to digital) converters (112, 162, 212, 232, 260, 280, 290) each electrically connected to at least one of the plurality of sensors (sensors 32-48) to cause each A/D converter to perform an A/D conversion on the signal; a determination unit (178, 278) configured to use the signal converted by each of the A/D converters to determine whether or not the airbag should be deployed; and an ignition circuit (see figure 3)configured to cause the squib to ignite to deploy the airbag when the determination unit determines that the airbag

should be deployed; wherein the plurality of sensors and he number of A/D converters are the same in number, wherein an output of each of the plurality of sensors (sensors 32-48) is electrically connected to an input of each of the plurality of A/D converters (112, 162, 212, 232, 260, 280, 290); wherein output terminals of the plurality of sensors (sensors 32-48) are electrically connected, in parallel to each other, to the determination unit (178, 278) through a plurality of transmission lines (144, 164, 216, 236) and each of the plurality of A/D converters (112, 162, 212, 232, 260, 280, 290) is connected to each of the plurality of transmission lines to intervene between each sensor and the determination unit.

With respect to claims 6-8, Foo et al discloses an apparatus for driving an occupant-protecting airbag device mounted on a vehicle, the airbag device including an airbag and a squib to which power is supplied and the squib being deployed by igniting the squib, the apparatus comprising: a plurality of sensors (sensors 32-48) each sensing a physical quantity acting on the vehicle to output an analog signal indicative of the physical quantity; a comparator (124) making a comparison between at least one of the signals outputted from the plurality of sensors (sensors 32-48) and a reference signal (Vel_Rel_1X; Vel_Rel_2X) so that a digital signal corresponding to the at least one signal is produced; a digital-signal input port (116, 166) configured to receive the digital signal produced by the comparator; an A/D (analog to digital) converter (112, 162, 212, 232, 260, 280, 290) receiving the signal outputted from at least one of the plurality of sensors (sensors 32-48) to cause the A/D converter (112, 162, 212, 232, 260, 280, 290) to perform an A/D conversion on the signal; a determination unit (128)

configured to use both of the signal converted by the A/D converter (112, 162, 212, 232, 260, 280, 290) and the digital signal received by the digital-signal input port to determine whether or not the airbag should be deployed; and an ignition circuit configured to cause the squib to ignite to deploy the airbag when the determination unit (128) determines that the airbag should be deployed; wherein the digital signal produced by the comparator is an ON/OFF signal consisting of high level signals and low level signals (see column 6); wherein the comparator (124) is placed to receive the signals outputted from a part of the plurality of sensors (32, 36) and the A/D converter (212, 232, 260, 280, 290) is placed to receive the signal outputted from a remaining of the plurality of sensors (40, 42, 44, 46, 48).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Toan C. To whose telephone number is (571) 272-6677. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (8:00-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Dickson can be reached on (571) 272-6669. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

TTo
August 15, 2006